

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on August 26, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 24-26, 31, and 32 are amended, claims 1-16 and 21-23 are canceled, and claim 33 is added; as a result, claims 17-20 and 24-33 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2002/0174067) in view of Houvener (U.S. 5,657,389).

Applicant has canceled claim 16, but reserves the right to pursue this claim in a continuation application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 17-20 and 24-32. Applicant submits that the minor amendments made to claims 24-26, 31, and 32 do not affect their allowability.

Reservation of Rights

Applicant does not admit that documents cited under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a), 102(e), 103/102(a), or 103/102(e) are prior art, and reserves the right to swear behind them at a later date. Arguments presented to distinguish such documents should not be construed as admissions that the documents are prior art.

Supplemental IDS

Applicant filed Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements on July 7, 2005, June 23, 2005, and April 26, 2005. Pursuant to the provisions of MPEP 609, Applicant requests that copies of the associated 1449 forms, initialed as being considered by the Examiner, be returned to the Applicant with the next official communication.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (281) 213-8980 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Representatives,

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Date 10/25/2005

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 25 day of October, 2005.

Dawn R. Shaw

Name

Dawn R. Shaw
Signature